

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 9 JANUARY  
2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

NEW EMC RULES FOR ALL ELECTRONICS WILL BENEFIT AMATEUR  
RADIO

THREE LOCAL CONTESTS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

and

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE AMATEUR RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN AC-  
TION SYMPOSIUM

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Manie Engelbrecht, ZS6HSE went silent on Tuesday 14 December 2021. We extend our sincere condolences to his father, Kurt ZS6DLE, brothers Piet, ZS6RPM, Nico, ZS6MAJ and Louis, family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Reverend Jan Kramer, ZS6JRK went silent on the evening of Sunday 26 December 2021. Jan was an ordained minister and a member of the Magalies Radio Club. He was a member of the SARL News Team for many years as a bulletin recorder, he took a break from the News Team to look after his wife. Jan had been admitted to hospital and passed after a short struggle with cancer. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

## NEW EMC RULES FOR ALL ELECTRONICS WILL BENEFIT AMATEUR RADIO

All electrical and electronic devices in South Africa that do not have radio frequency modules must have valid electromagnetic compatibility certificates recognised by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). The new rules should go a long way to take electronics off the market that cause radio interference, electronics like switch mode power supplies, LEDs and electronic equipment where noise suppression circuitry has been omitted to save cost. The new rule comes after the SABS and Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) were met with criticism after they tried to implement a new compliance regime in 2017.

Among the concerns was that only compliance certificates from test laboratories authorised and integrated into the SABS Authorised Laboratory Programme would be recognised. ICASA and the SABS have now changed their approach, recognising internationally accredited labs. Ironically the SARL has on several occasions discussed this issue with ICASA and is delighted that this issue has been resolved. This new rule may also have a positive impact on type approval. The SARL has requested an urgent meeting of the SARL/ICASA liaison committee to pursue this matter.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM IARU REGION 1

Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, the President of IARU Region 1 says, “The Year 2021 is behind us, we all had hopes of a more favourable situation for a meeting last October. The Covid finally forced us to organize a virtual conference once again. Honestly, if we take the time to look at what has been accomplished during this week of joint work, I am not sure we would have been as effective in a physical meeting!

I would particularly like to thank ARA, ARAT, BARS, CARS, CRAM, CRC, DARC, HRS, IRTS, KARS, OEVS, PZK, RAAG, RAL, RL, RSGB, RSM, SARA, SARL, SHARK, SRAL, SRS, SSA, UBA, URE, USKA, VERON for their volunteers, their time and their involvement in the process following the “Shaping the Future of Amateur Radio” workshop. This programme needs your help, several teams are too small, your contribution would be valuable.

How will 2022 look like? We cannot predict how the pandemic situation will evolve, but for sure we will continue to adapt to it and focus our actions on continuing the initiative started in the Workshop.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you a healthy and successful New Year, hoping to be able to see you in person at Ham Radio 2022 in Friedrichshafen.

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### THREE LOCAL CONTESTS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

There are three local contests scheduled for the next two weeks. The PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest will be run from 16:00 UTC on Friday 14 January until 12:00 UTC on Sunday 16 January 2022. Unfortunately, no news item was received from the hosting Club about the contest. Turn to page 26 of the 2022 Blue Book for further information.

The first leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest will be run from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 19 January with phone, CW and digital activity. The exchange is a RS, RST or RSQ report, your four-character grid square and the name or abbreviation of your Club. You score two points for a phone QSO, three points for a CW and digital QSO, two points for each new grid square and one point for each new Club worked. The format has changed to a contest because South African radio amateurs are not ready to operate sprints. Submit your MS Excel log by 21:59 UTC on Monday 24 January to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za). Your call sign must appear in the name of the file, e.g., ZS4BS 2022 Wednesday 80 m Club Contest.xlsx. On page 57 of the 2022 Blue Book, you will find a list of Clubs and their abbreviations.

The first leg of the SARL QRP Contest, the Summer contest, will be on the air from 12:00 to 13:30 UTC on Saturday 22 January 2022. More detail in next week's bulletin.

Clubs and individuals who are the hosts of the contests in the 2022 Blue Book are referred to Rule 2 of the General Rules. They are requested to advertise the contest by submitting a news item to SARL News for at least 2 Sundays before the contest. Upload the news item, in English and Afrikaans, to [www.sarl.org.za/NewsInbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/NewsInbox.asp).

### EXAM CENTRE AND HF ASSESSOR RE-AFFIRMATION

Exam centre - As per the RAE policy all exam centres have been de-activated for 2022. An e-mail has been sent to all 50 chief invigilators of registered exam centres. Clubs wishing to offer RAE classes and continue running an exam centre are required to confirm and update all their details. It is important that the physical address and contact e-mail is correct. Once the process has been completed, the exam centre will be re-activated. Please check after a few days to see if your exam centre has been published at [www.sarl.org.za/Web3/RAE/ExamCentresPublic.aspx](http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/RAE/ExamCentresPublic.aspx).

HF assessors - e-mails have also been sent to all 115 registered HF assessors. As an HF assessor you are also required to re-confirm your availability for 2022. Once you have re-re-confirmed your details will appear on the list at [www.sarl.org.za/Web3/RAE/HFAssessorsPublic.aspx](http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/RAE/HFAssessorsPublic.aspx). If you have registered as an exam centre or HF assessor and your details have not been published, then contact the RAE manager at [rae@sarl.org.za](mailto:rae@sarl.org.za).

### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE AMATEUR RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION SYMPOSIUM

The SARL invites proposals for Papers to be presented at the SARL Amateur Radio Technology in Action symposium which will be held virtually on the BlueJeans platform on Saturday 9 April 2022. The proposals for Papers must be in Word format and submitted to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za) and include a detailed synopsis and the author's contact information. The closing date for proposals is Friday 25 February 2022. Authors will be advised of acceptance on 1 March. Final papers in PowerPoint and Word must be submitted by 31 March 2022. Presentations are typically between 20 - 30 minutes with a 10 minute Q&A. For more details or questions send an e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za)

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently two sunspot regions visible and there is a minor possibility of C-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 26. The 15 to 30 m bands will provide some DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

12 January – the inland schools open

14 to 16 January – the PEARS National VHF/UHF contest

19 January – the coastal schools open and the SARL 80 m Wednesday Club contest

22 January – the Summer QRP contest

24 January – the closing date for Club contest logs

26 January – the Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour

27 January – the closing date for QRP logs

31 January – the closing date for AGM motions, Award nominations and Council nominations

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

All electrical and electronic devices in South Africa that do not have radio frequency modules must have valid electromagnetic compatibility certificates recognised by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). The new rules should go a long way to take electronics off the market that cause radio interference, electronics like switch mode power supplies, LEDs and electronic equipment where noise suppression circuitry has been omitted to save cost.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by

following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proofread by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.